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Application No. 10/825,405

Amendment dated January 21, 2010

Reply to Final Office Action of September 30, 2009

Docket No.: NY-NIAD 216-US2-DIV

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-12. (Canceled)

Claim 13. (Currently amended) A method for increasing leptin levels in a human subject in need of improved ~~immune function, skin epitheliation, hair follicle cycling, or inhibition of tumor formation,~~ and increased leptin levels comprising administering, orally or topically to said subject an amount of nicotinic alkyl ester sufficient to increase leptin levels in said subject and improve ~~immune function, improve skin epitheliation, improve hair follicle cycling, or inhibit tumor formation,~~ wherein the alkyl chain of said nicotinic acid alkyl ester contains from 12 to 22 carbon atoms.

Claim 14. (Canceled)

Claim 15. (Canceled)

Claim 16. (Canceled)

Claim 17. (Canceled)

Claim 18. (Previously presented) The method of claim 13, wherein said alkyl chain contains 12 or 14 carbon atoms.

Claim 19. (Previously presented) The method of claim 13, wherein said nicotinic acid alkyl ester is administered orally.

Claim 20. (Previously presented) The method of claim 13, wherein said nicotinic acid alkyl ester is administered topically.

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Claim 21. (Previously presented) The method of claim 13, comprising administering more than one nicotinic acid alkyl ester.

Claim 22. (Previously presented) The method of claim 13, wherein said nicotinic acid alkyl ester is administered in an amount ranging from about 0.1g to about 10 g/day/70 kg of body weight.

Claim 23. (Previously presented) The method of claim 22, wherein said nicotinic acid alkyl ester is administered in an amount ranging from about 0.1 g to about 7 g/day/70 kg of body weight.

Claim 24. (Previously presented) The method of claim 22, wherein said nicotinic acid alkyl ester is administered in an amount ranging from about 0.4 g to about 5 g/day/70 kg of body weight.